extensive scale and have embarked on a scheme costing over rupees one and a half lakhs for the construction of about 800 houses in the current year for their occupation. Steps are being taken to organise on a co-operative basis the cottage industries on which the families of these communities are generally engaged. My Government are giving free education to the students of backward communities and have adopted a liberal policy in the matter of granting other educational concessions to them. It has been decided to appoint suitable candidates from these communities to higher posts to secure adequate representation in the higher ranks of the Govarnment service and to exclude them from retrenchment measures.

MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH

8. My Government are fully alive to the necessity for the protection of the health of the people, for the prevention of the occurrence of epidemics, and for the provision of medical relief by encouraging both modern and indigenous systems. They have arranged for the provision of midwifery service on a much larger scale, and have revived the scheme for free distribution of milk. They propose to start a first class T. B. clinic at Trivandrum with the assistance of the World Health Organisation and the Government of India and will open shortly the T. B. Sanatorium at Mulakunnathukavu and the T. B. Clinic at Palluruthy. They have appointed a Committee for the formulation of a scheme for the establishment of dispensaries in the State and have sanctioned the formation of Boards of Honorary Visitors to Hospital in certain important places in order to give an opportunity to the public to come in contact with the administration of medical institutions and to make suggestions for their improvement. The University of Travancore-Cochin has instituted a Faculty of Ayurveda.

HOUSING OF THE POOR

9. Realising the importance of the problem of housing for the poor, my Government are anxious to provide houses particularly for the rural agricultural labourers, fishermen in coastal areas, municipal menials and industrial labourers. They have constituted a Housing Board to deal with the problem on a systematic basis. The responsibility for working out the scheme will be entrusted to Co-operative Societies, wherever possible, particularly in the case of housing for agricultural labourers and fishermen. A scheme for re-building huts in the flood affected areas in the Pulinkunnu Pakuthy has been sanctioned as an experimental measure and after assessing its success there, it will be extended to other needy areas.

EDUCATION

10. In the field of education also, my Government are evincing keen interest. The College for Women, the C. M. S. College at Kottayam and the Scott Christian College, Nagercoil, have been raised to First Grade Colleges, and two new Colleges have been opened one at Pandalam and the other at Palai, while the number of seats in the Engineering College for the Degree Course has been raised from 50 to 100. My Government have decided that the Adult Education activities which are at present carried on by various organisations, should be brought under the direct supervision and control of a single authority and have accordingly appointed the Director of Public Instruction as the Adult Education Authority for the whole State. They have also constituted an Adult Education Board for implementation of the Adult Education Scheme. They have taken an important step towards the introduction of Basic Education by opening a Basic Training School at Cherpu and are collecting preliminary data for extending the scheme of compulsory primary education to Shencottah and Chittur Taluks. The sad lot of teachers in many private Secondary Schools

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